

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2009

H

D

BILL DRAFT 2009-RDz-3 [v.10] (12/01)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)

12/18/2008 12:15:44 PM

Short Title: Compensate Eugenics Sterilization Survivors.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE MONETARY COMPENSATION TO PERSONS  
STERILIZED BY THE STATE EUGENIC STERILIZATION PROGRAM.

Whereas, during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, social reformers advocated eugenic sterilization as a solution to problems such as mental retardation and mental illness; and

Whereas, in 1907, Indiana was the first state to pass a eugenic sterilization program, and eventually more than 30 states passed these laws, with North Carolina following in 1929; and

Whereas, from 1929 to 1974, North Carolina's Eugenics Board reviewed petitions for sterilizations, and sterilizations were ordered in more than 90% of the cases before the Board; and

Whereas, researchers estimate that more than 7,600 people were sterilized in North Carolina between 1929 and 1974, ranking North Carolina third among the states operating eugenic sterilization programs; and

Whereas, over the lifetime of the Eugenics Sterilization Program, approximately 38% of those persons sterilized under the Program were black, and 84% of all sterilized under the Program were female; and

Whereas, over the lifetime of the Eugenics Sterilization Program, approximately 71% of those persons sterilized under the Program were done so due to being classified as being 'feebleminded', which were predominantly people with intellectual disabilities, 24% due to being classified as being mentally ill, and 5% because they had epilepsy; and